

P.B. 5818 - Patentlaan 2
2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH)
P. (070) 340 2040
Tx 31651 epo nl
FAX (070) 340 3016

Europäisches
Patentamt
Zweigstelle in
Den Haag
Recherchen-
abteilung

European
Patent Office
Branch at
The Hague
Search
Division

Office européen
des brevets
Département a
La Haye
Division de la
recherche

Nicholls, Michael John
J.A. KEMP & CO.
14, South Square
Gray's Inn
London WC1R 5LX
GRANDE BRETAGNE

J. A. KEMP & CO

REC'D 19 DEC 2000

Action by.....

09/527440

Datum/Date

15.12.2000

Zeichen/Ref./Réf.
N. 79239 MN

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n° // Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°
00302249.8-2201/

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur//Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire
Hitachi, Ltd.

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits the partial European search report under Rule 46(1) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application.

Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the following:

The Search Division informs the applicant that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention first mentioned in the claims, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, within ONE MONTH after notification of this communication.

Note to users of the automatic debiting procedure:

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement to OJ EPO 06/1994.

The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to the present communication.

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the provisions of the European Patent Convention to such an extent that it is not possible to carry out a meaningful search into the state of the art on the basis of some of the claims.

Claims searched completely:

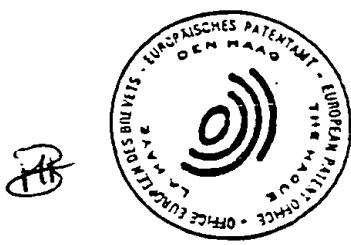
Claims searched incompletely:

Claims not searched:

Reason for the limitation of the search:

Additional copy (copies) of the documents cited in the European search report.

REGISTERED LETTER





European Patent
Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent EP 00 30 2249
Convention

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	<p>HILLIER L AND GREEN P: "OSP: a computer program for choosing PCR and DNA sequencing primers" PCR METHODS AND APPLICATIONS, 'Online!', vol. 1, no. 2, November 1991 (1991-11), pages 124-128, XP002152448 Retrieved from the Internet: <URL: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov:80/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_ui ds=1842929&doct=Abstract> 'retrieved on 2000-11-06! * abstract *</p> <p>----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-/-</p>	1-13,20	G06F19/00
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			G06F
LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:</p> <p>see sheet B</p>			
<p>The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.</p>			
3	Place of search THE HAGUE	Date of completion of the search 10 November 2000	Examiner Filloy García, E
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	<p>MITSUHASHI M AND HOSOKAWA T: "Novel computerized method for designing nucleotide sequence used for DNA probes and PCR primers" NIPPON RINSHO, 'Online! vol. 52, no. 2, February 1994 (1994-02), pages 530-541, XP002152449 Retrieved from the Internet: <URL: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov:80/entrez/ query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=8126913&dopt=Abstract> 'retrieved on 2000-11-06! (translated abstract - article in Japanese) * abstract *</p> <p>---</p>	1-13,20	
A	<p>LINCOLN S E ET AL: "PRIMER: A Computer Program for Automatically Selecting PCR Primers" THE WHITEHEAD INSTITUTE FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH, 'Online! May 1991 (1991-05), XP002152450 Retrieved from the Internet: <URL: http://www.hgmp.mrc.ac.uk/Menu/Help/primer.html> 'retrieved on 2000-11-06! sections 1,3</p> <p>---</p>	1-13,20	
A	<p>BECKER A ET AL: "Primer Design - a new program to choose PCR primers and oligonucleotide probes" MEDIZINISCHE GENETIK, 'Online! vol. 7, no. 2, 1995, page A-158 XP002152451 Retrieved from the Internet: <URL: http://www.chemie.uni-marburg.de/{becker/poster/poster4.html}> 'retrieved on 2000-11-06! * the whole document *</p> <p>---</p> <p>-/-</p>	1-13,20	



European Patent
Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 00 30 2249

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
A	<p>DIEFFENBACH C W ET AL: "GENERAL CONCEPTS FOR PCR PRIMER DESIGN" PCR METHODS & APPLICATIONS, US, COLD SPRING HARBOR LABORATORY PRESS, vol. 3, 1 December 1993 (1993-12-01), pages S30-S37, XP000616084 ISSN: 1054-9803 * page S33, paragraphs 3,4 *</p> <p>-----</p>	1-13,20	



European Patent
Office

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
EP 00 30 2249

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-13,20

Primer design system performing operations on sequence databases.

2. Claims: 14-19

Micro-well plates and kit for PCR amplification.